NOVEL IS FOUND GUILTY IN RENO

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Transport of Eavesdropping Devices Involved

Once sought as a witness in District Attorney Jim Garrison's Kennedy assassination probe, Gordon Novel was convicted in federal court in Reno, Nev., Thursday of interstate transportation of unlawful eavesdropping devices.

Formerly of New Orleans, Novel was indicted in January by a federal grand jury which accused him of bringing a device "primarily useful for interception of wire and oral communications" from Columbus, Ohio, to Reno.

Novel's trial before a federal jury began Monday.

Novel, 31, will be sentenced Oct. 30 by U.S. Dist. Court Judge Bruce Thompson. He could receive as much as five years in a federal prison and a fine of up to $10,000.

Novel, who once owned a nightclub in New Orleans, has claimed he knows nothing about the Kennedy assassination. He filed a $50 million suit against Garrison and his backers, but dropped it in 1967 rather than return to New Orleans to testify.

LOYOLA TEACHER